

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 18-cr-20151  
Hon. Matthew F. Leitman

v.

D10, KAYLA SANDERS,

Defendant.

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**ORDER EXTENDING DEFENDANT'S SURRENDER DATE**

On November 29, 2018, this Court imposed a substantial 40-month sentence on Defendant Kayla Sanders. At the conclusion of the sentencing hearing, the Court directed Sanders to surrender to the United States Marshals by noon on December 20, 2018. The Court has *sua sponte* reconsidered the surrender date and hereby extends Sanders surrender date to noon on December 27, 2018.

The Court grants the extension for two reasons. First, there is potentially much to gain and there is little to lose by extending the date. The new surrender date allows Sanders to spend Christmas with her two young children (whose father is already incarcerated). Spending that special occasion together will allow them to make memories and strengthen bonds that may help to keep their relationships intact during Sanders' term of incarceration. And adding seven days to Sanders' surrender

date does not meaningfully increase the risk that she will flee or that she will commit new criminal offenses before her prison term begins.

Second, extending Sanders' surrender date to permit her to spend a cherished holiday with her very young children is an appropriate act of mercy and compassion. These values can be "just as vital and essential to the system as strictness." *United States v. McDougal*, 16 F.Supp.2d 1047, 1048 (E.D. Ark. 1998). Indeed, the Court believes and expects that showing this small bit of compassion to Sanders "will create and motivate greater respect for the system" on her behalf and "will inspire [her] desire and [her] will to become rehabilitated." *Id.* (describing important benefits of mercy and compassion, where appropriate, in connection with criminal sentencing). Moreover, "[t]he notion that undue harshness should be avoided by those sitting in judgment has long been a part of the human fabric and spirit." *United States v. Blarek*, 7 F.Supp.2d 192, 210 (E.D.N.Y. 1998). In that spirit, the Court will permit Sanders to spend Christmas with her young children.

Sanders shall surrender herself to the United States Marshals (at their office in the United States Courthouse, 600 Church Street, Flint, Michigan) between 9:00 a.m. and noon on December 27, 2018.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Matthew F. Leitman  
MATTHEW F. LEITMAN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated: December 4, 2018

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served upon the parties and/or counsel of record on December 4, 2018, by electronic means and/or ordinary mail.

s/Holly A. Monda  
Case Manager  
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